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INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY  
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STATE FOR EUR/SCE JOSHUA BLACK AND EAP/ANP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/15/2012

TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNAU](#) [UNMIK](#) [PGOV](#) [YI](#) [EU](#)

SUBJECT: KOSOVO: AUSTRALIA RECOGNITION TO FOLLOW US, EU

REF: STATE 166909 AND 01087

Classified By: Classified by Charge Daniel A. Clune for reasons 1.4 (b)  
and (d)

¶1. (SBU) This is an action request. Please see para 5 below.

¶2. (C) Summary: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) will recommend recognition of Kosovo in the early stages, but only "in good company", that is, after the US, most of the EU and Canada. The issue will be put forward to the Prime Minister during the coming weeks for a final decision. End Summary.

¶3. (C) Further to reftel, the Charge met with First Assistant Secretary Jeremy Newman who stated they are looking closely and clearly at the Kosovo issue and will be giving it to Foreign Minister Smith for his consideration. (Note: No specific timeframe was given.) Smith has a legal background and Newman anticipates this will be his focus in evaluating recognition before sending a recommendation to Prime Minister Rudd. The recommendation will be to recognize Kosovo in the early stages but "in good company", i.e. after recognition by the United States, Canada and most members of the European Union.

¶4. (U) Standard procedure requires DFAT to put forward a recommendation to the Minister who then sends the recommendation to the Prime Minister by letter. A short Cabinet session will take place if necessary.

¶5. (C) FAS Newman agrees a coordinated effort is best and asked for input on several related questions.

-- Which countries are committed to early recognition?  
-- Will the declaration be fully coordinated? Will there be a timetable for recognitions?  
-- What are the US and EU are doing to mitigate Russian resistance to recognition and potential problems erupting in Bosnia?  
-- Does the US have a better idea of the timeframe for the announcement?

We would appreciate Department,s answers to these questions to provide to DFAT to expedite the recognition process.  
Embassy POC is Political Officer Andrea Appell  
(appella@state.gov tel: 011 61 2 6214 5833)

CLUNE